

Welcome to Ms. Loftus' 8th Grade STEM, 2023-24!

We will be exploring phenomena of this amazing world we live in through scientific investigations and research using a variety of technology, engineering solutions, and real world applications. We will be making connections to mathematics, as well as STEM-connected career possibilities!

★ Expectations: Be curious, respect yourself and others, give your best effort in everything we do, participate in class discussions and activities, and have fun!

★ Participation can look different for everyone!
There are many ways to be part of the learning!

★ Materials Needed: STEM/Science Notebook, notebook paper, Chromebook, pen, pencil, colored pencils or markers, and a highlighter.

We learn best when we:

- 1) Respect each other, the materials, and the environment
- 2) Use positive language
- 3) Work together, solve problems, and ask questions
- 4) Follow community agreements, including phones and chromebooks put away when not being used as a tool
- 5) Wear safety equipment when necessary and follow directions carefully

Class Routines: Routines help us demonstrate learning.

- 1) Entry Task: For the first few minutes of class, everyone will respond to a warm up question or task to prepare for the day.
- 2) Learning Goal/Target: Posted each lesson, guides where we are going.
- 3) Lab/Activity Day: Action we will take to answer questions, gather data, and discuss ideas.
- 4) Progress Tracker: After we have gathered evidence, we will record what we learn and what connections we made to our phenomenon or driving question.
- 5) Exit Task: A quick check-in before leaving class to help monitor understanding and plan next steps.

Grading~

When you check your student's grades, you will see an overall course grade in a traditional A-F format. For specific information on how that grade was calculated you will need to click the course grade. You will see that all assignments and assessments are tied to a specific grade level standard. Our hope is this will provide better communication regarding the standard the student will need to work on to improve their overall course grade.

It is our vision that our students will be able to articulate the standards they are to meet and can keep track of their progress on a routine basis. Our staff has committed to updating grades weekly.

Respectfully, The CMS Team

STEM Grading:

Student learning will be reported using the guide below, based on performances on state standard assessments and daily work and practice, using the A-F format described above.

- 85% of the student grade will be based on state standard assessments.
- 15% of the student grade will be based on daily work and practice (the student-created science notebook, some completed through Google Classroom and some on paper).
- Behavior will be graded as E-exceptional, S-satisfactory, or U-unsatisfactory. (Behavior will be reported separately and will not be factored into the final class grade)

8th grade STEM, 2023-24:

Unit 1 Earth in Space	Earth Science
Unit 2 Contact Forces	Physical Science
Unit 3 Sound Waves (review)	Physical Science
Unit 4 Forces at a Distance	Physical Science
Unit 5 Genetics	Life Science
Unit 6 Natural Selection	Life Science

Late Work Policy: Students are responsible for turning work in on time. If the student is absent for an assignment, they will be given time to make up the work. All missing/late practice should be completed prior to the next assessment. Students can use their Google Calendar to keep up on work that is due or missing.

Academic Integrity/Cheating: Unless stated, all work produced in this class must be your own. If you violate this policy, you will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Allowing anyone else to copy your work will also result in a 0.

Keys to the class:

- 🔗 Be an active learner! Don't sit back and watch, be part of the process!
- 🔗 Complete all of the practice required in the science notebook and in Google Classroom...it will prepare you for the assessments!
- 🔗 Ask questions! Be curious!
- 🔗 Be safe and have fun!
- 🔗 Give more, get more!

Please email or call with any questions or concerns: aloftus@cashmere.wednet.edu 509-782-2001.

I am looking forward to our year of STEM here at CMS! Please review this syllabus with your parent/child. (Please sign below that you have read and understand the syllabus), and return this portion to the teacher. Thank you!

Student:

Parent: